

“What is good about this project is that we have all parts of the Army working together,” said Jim Leander, Okinawa Department of Public Works (DPW) Chief, “including the customer, DPW and the various elements up and down the channel. I appreciate the efforts and cooperation from everybody in bringing in our contracting partners to make this happen.”

Leander said the next step is to complete the installation before August — the beginning of Okinawa’s annual typhoon season — because, as the entire team points out, warfighters deployed around the world depend on the communications supported by Fort Buckner’s power shed.



Jim Leander, Chief of the Okinawa DPW, tests the power generation equipment’s touch screen monitors, which give the operator the ability to “drill down” and virtually view any component. (Photo by Tim Kennedy.)

“As a public works person, I’m responsible for bringing power to the receptacle in the wall,” said Leander. “But when my sons are in Afghanistan or back in Iraq, this up-graded facility will make them better operators. When they need to communicate on a system supported by us, they really don’t care what I do to provide power. They just want it to stay on.”

*Tim Kennedy is President, Strategy Policy Group, an Arlington, VA-based strategic communications company.*

## ALTESS News

### Advanced Collaborative Environment

*Ailene Anderson*

There has been a lot of discussion on what an Advanced Collaborative Environment (ACE) is. The dictionary defines “collaborate” as “to work together, especially in a joint intellectual effort.” Information technology (IT) is a tool employed to facilitate collaboration. IT allows people and processes at all levels to work together in a joint intellectual effort. This is represented in the acquisition framework triad: Planning, Programming, Budget and Execution; Defense Acquisition System; and Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System.

Imagine working in an environment with access to end items, artifacts, supportive links aligning daily operations and interaction and directly supporting strategic goals and financial objectives for your organization, DOD and the Army.

A technical organizational system-of-systems, ACE integrates people, processes and technology. Its mission is to implement an enterprise business solution for acquisition life-cycle management that facilitates collaboration, intellectual knowledge sharing and process improvement while reducing business costs.

Technical personnel view ACE as commercial-off-the-shelf products for e-mail, Web conferencing, workflow management, standard document templates, Web services, systems federation and artifact visibility. Others see it as a cross-application integration and a way to eliminate legacy systems.

The acquisition community is transforming from a program/project-centric focus to a “system-of-systems” platform. ACE will help the acquisition community become more technologically organized and cost-effective.

*Ailene Anderson is the Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Enterprise Systems and Services Assistant Project Manager for ACE, Fort Belvoir, VA.*

## Master Acquisition User Interface

*Raymond S. Soroka*

Project Master Acquisition User Interface (MAUI) is an initial step by Product Manager Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Enterprise Systems and Services (ALTESS) to transition the Acquisition Information Management (AIM) system into a network-centric and data-focused environment. AIM comprises various applications that provide information and reporting services to the program manager (PM), program executive office (PEO) and HQDA communities. MAUI, combined with an integrated universal output and reporting system, would alleviate user workloads, diminish duplicative data entry, enhance program information management and simplify the reporting process.

MAUI's intent is to consolidate multiple application input views within AIM into a single integrated interface. AIM's end-state will be program- and data-centric as opposed to application-centric. The unified interface will serve primarily to capture input from the user and also, where feasible, to receive and integrate data directly from the authoritative source. Adherence to desired end-state objectives and architectures will be strictly enforced.

MAUI's goal is to be a network-centric enterprise system conforming to DOD and Army regulations, standards, guidelines and future-vision directives and architectures. MAUI will consolidate and streamline the processes for acquisition reporting.

MAUI's primary goals are to:

- **Consolidate Application Interfaces.** Provide a Web-based system that consolidates multiple AIM applications into a single, unified data-driven interface. The initial scope will be to consolidate the following application interfaces: Monthly Acquisition Program Review, Monthly Acquisition Report, Probability of Success and SmartCharts.
- **Eliminate Data Redundancy.** Use the segmented layers of the codified acquisition database to maintain and integrate normalized, universal and authoritative data. The single authoritative sources of data will be shared among all functional components in MAUI and with other systems both internally and externally.
- **Manage Operational Data.** Provide the capability to enter, update and maintain operational data for each functional area.

- **CODIFY all Data.** Employ and conform to the data standards of the Common Organizational Database Infrastructure For everYone (CODIFY) process.
- **Maintain Metadata Information.** Publish metadata information on all data elements into the Acquisition Data Dictionary. Integrate with the DOD Metadata Registry to the fullest extent possible.
- **Provide Functional Area Varieties of Data.** Allow specified data elements to have multiple varieties (versions) that are in context with the use of that data.
- **Provide Role-Based Functional Area Views of Data.** Present data in a role-based manner consistent with functional use of signed-on users.
- **Identify Authoritative Sources and Owners of Data.** Identify the authoritative data sources and owners for each of the functional area data sets to the maximum extent possible.
- **Integrate with Authoritative Data Sources.** Pull data from authoritative sources outside of the acquisition database wherever possible.
- **Conform to Network-Centricity.** Conform to the tenets of network-centricity and integrate with other Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), DOD, other services, Advanced Collaborative Environment and Global Information Grid systems to include the Consolidated Acquisition Supporting System and Defense Acquisition Management Information Retrieval.
- **Align with DOD COTS-Based Initiatives.** Employ a commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS)-based strategy to the fullest extent possible in accordance with *DoD Instruction 5000.2, Operation of the Defense Acquisition System*.
- **Enable Enterprise Capability.** Accommodate all levels of the Army acquisition community to include PMs, PEOs, HQDA and OSD.
- **Enable Program Portfolio Management Views.** Present data in a portfolio-centric manner. The portfolio perspectives shall include views based on program, earned value and budget. Other views shall be incorporated as they are discovered in the requirements phase of this project.
- **Provide a Search Capability.** Provide a search capability for all data within its realm.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and PEO Enterprise Information Systems sponsor the MAUI project.

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